

Remarks

Referring to Figures 2 and 3, amended claim 1 makes clear that the two uppermost panels of each folded sheet, namely, the panels 31 and 32 of the right-folded sheets 21 which extend from the free edges 24 and 25 and the panels 43 and 44 of the left folded sheets 22 which extend from the free edges 37 and 38 are oriented toward the top of the stack. The panels 33 and 34 of the folded portion 29 of the right folded sheets 21 and the panels 45 and 46 of the folded portion 42 of the left folded sheets 22 are oriented toward the bottom of the stack.

The last paragraph of claim 1 states that the first top panel of each sheet of each group is interleaved between the second and third panels of a sheet of the other group. In the stack of amended claim 1, each of the folded portions 29 and 42 which includes the first fold 23 or 36 is positioned below the top panel of the next lower sheet.

In contrast to amended claim 1, in the stack of Uni-Charm EP 1 213 230 A1 the folded portion 10B1 which includes the first fold line 11 is oriented toward the top of the stack. As a result, when a sheet is withdrawn, the double ply folded portion of the next lower sheet is withdrawn through the opening. The length of the next sheet which is exposed through the opening is thereby doubled, which increases the length of the sheet which is subject to drying.

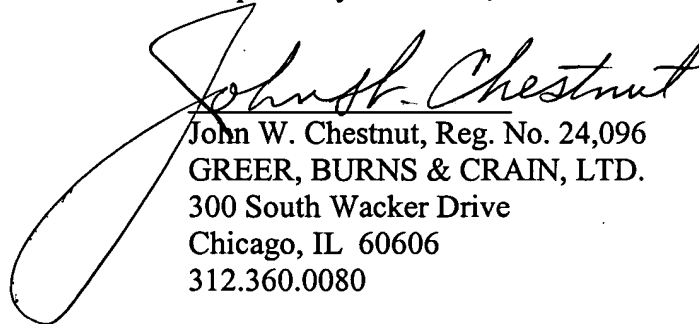
Uni-Charm EP 1 213 230 A1 specifically teaches in column 8, lines 12-26 that the folded portion 10B1 with the first fold line 11 should be oriented at the top of the stack.

The orientation of the folded sheets in Uni-Charm EP 1 213 230 A1 also results in an uneven stack. In the stack of Figure 1 there are twelve plies of tissue along each of the two sides of the stack, and there are twenty four plies along the center line O-O. The center of the stack is therefore bulkier than the edges of the stack.

Similarly, the stack in Figure 3 has fifteen plies at the two sides of the stack and eighteen plies on either side of the center line O-O.

Figure 5 illustrates a stack in which the plies on both sides of the center line O-O are equal. However, Uni-Charm EP 1 213 230 A1 can achieve that condition only by making the first fold so that the two folded plies are substantially unequal in length. As stated in column 11, lines 33-41, the length W7 between the shorter edge 20c and the second folding line 22 is substantially equal to the length of the upper piece 20B1. As a result, the length W8 between the edge 20b and the second folding line 22 is about the twice the length of W7.

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